APPLE COMICS

Robert Asprin and Ken & Beth Mitchroney

WAK GRAPHICS

# Myth Conceptions

No. 7
$1.95
$2.60 in Canada

## HOT CROSSED PERVERTS

# Our Story So Far...

In the dimension of Klah, young Skeeve became apprentice to the wizard, Garkin. One day, Garkin summoned a fellow magician from the dimension of Perv, the "demon" Aahz. As a prank, Garkin put a spell on Aahz which removed his powers. But before Garkin could remove the spell, he was murdered.

So Skeeve became apprentice to Aahz, who, even though powerless, still retained all his knowledge of magik. Together, they tracked down Isstvan, the magician behind Garkin's murder.

Along the way, they visited Deva, site of an interdimensional bazaar, where they met Tananda, the beautiful assassin/magician. It was also at Deva that Skeeve adopted his pet dragon, Gleep (or was it the other way around?)

Afterwards, Aahz and Skeeve took over Isstvan's former base of operations, an old country inn, to continue Skeeve's education.

But Aahz's greed got in the way and after two successive get-rich-quick schemes backfired, they found themselves poorer than ever, with the inn on the verge of bankruptcy.

Things began looking up, however, when Skeeve was summoned to apply to become magician to the court of King Rodrick the Fifth of Possiltum. They decided to stage a role reversal — Aahz posing as the apprentice while he taught Skeeve to act like a powerful sorcerer.

Arriving in Possiltum, Aahz shrewdly gained the favor of King Rodrick's Chancellor, J.R. Grimble, who controlled the purse strings in the kingdom. On Grimble's advice, King Rodrick gave Skeeve the job. But Skeeve's first assignment called for real magikal skills: stop the army approaching from the north — or die trying.

Even worse, General Badaxe, Commander of the Royal Armies of Possiltum (and Grimble's chief rival), didn't want competition from magicians — he gave orders to his troops that, even if Aahz and Skeeve succeeded, they were not to return to Possiltum alive!

But then Tananda (Tanda to her friends) showed up with a D-hopper. They used it to go to Deva, where, by accident, Skeeve recruited a squad of misfits to help them. Returning to Klah, our heroes had their first skirmish and — thanks to Skeeve's magikal skills — actually won! With a new respect for their foes, the invaders began a series of battlefield negotiations with Skeeve. After one such meeting, they agreed to trade hostages as a sign of good faith while the commander considered bypassing Possiltum. The commander got Aahz. Skeeve got Claude, the unfortunate officer who had lost the initial battle against Skeeve...

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Myth Conceptions™

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WHILE WE HAVE A MOMENT, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR INTERCEDING IN MY BEHALF WITH MY SUPERIORS.

DON'T MENTION IT. WHEN I WON THE BATTLE, I WON A BET. THAT'S ALL THERE IS.

NO, *REALLY!* CHIVALRY TO AN OPPONENT IS RARELY SEEN THESE DAYS, I THINK--

*LOOK*, CLAUDE! CREDIT IT TO MY WARPED SENSE OF JUSTICE. I DON'T LIKE *YOU*, AND I *DIDN'T* WHEN WE FIRST MET. BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE YOU INCOMPETENT. *UNPLEASANT*, PERHAPS, BUT NOT *INCOMPETENT!*

# HOT CROSSED PERVECTS

UM-- SKEEVE?

YEAH?

I--UM-- WHAT I WAS *TRYING* TO SAY WAS THAT I AM *GRATEFUL* AND WOULD REPAY YOUR FAVOR BY ANY *REASONABLE* MEANS AT MY DISPOSAL.

ADAPTED by BETH & KEN MITCHRONEY

WOULD ANSWERING A FEW QUESTIONS FALL UNDER THE HEADING OF "REASONABLE"?

ILLUSTRATED by KEN MITCHRONEY

DEPENDING UPON THE QUESTIONS. I AM *STILL* A SOLDIER, AND MY CODE OF CONDUCT CLEARLY STATES--

WOULD ANSWERING A FEW QUESTIONS FALL UNDER THE HEADING OF "REASONABLE"?

LETTERED by GARY FIELDS

SO IT WOULD SEEM.

?

WELL?

?

@#!!

EDITS BY RICHARD PINI

SQUEEKITY SQUEEK SQUEEK!

SKEEVE?

IF I TOLD YOU, YA WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME!*

NOW. FIRST. DO YOU THINK THE COMMANDER ACTUALLY WILL BYPASS POSSILTUM?

I SHOULD NOT EVEN *ANSWER* THAT. BUT I *WILL*. I DO NOT FEEL THE COMMANDER EVEN CONSIDERS IT AS A SERIOUS POSSIBILITY. NOR DOES ANY OFFICER IN THAT TENT. HE IS KNOWN AS "THE BRUTE", EVEN AMONG HIS MOST LOYAL AND SEASONED TROOPS. I ASSURE YOU, HE DID NOT ACQUIRE THAT NICKNAME BY CAPITULATING WHEN HIS FORCE WAS STILL INTACT.

THEN WHY DID HE GO THROUGH THE MOTIONS OF THE MEETING JUST NOW?

OFFICIAL ISSUE #7 POLICE COMPOSIT

BADGUY

TO GAIN TIME. AS YOUR ASSISTANTS NOTED, HE IS USING THE DELAY TO MASS HIS TROOPS. THE ONLY CODE *HE* ADHERES TO IS "VICTORY AT ALL COSTS". IN THIS CASE, IT SEEMS TO BE COSTING HIM HIS HONOR.

ICK!

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* GARY'S REBUTTAL-"WOULD YOU BELIEVE I WAS TAKEN HOSTAGE BY AN ELVIS IMPERSONATOR?"

CLAUDE, YOU'VE FACED US IN BATTLE, AND YOU KNOW YOUR OWN ARMY. IF YOUR PREDICTION IS CORRECT AND THE BRUTE ATTACKS IN FORCE, IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT ARE OUR CHANCES OF VICTORY?

NIL.

I KNOW IT MAY SOUND LIKE ENEMY PROPAGANDA, BUT I ASK YOU TO BELIEVE MY SINCERITY. EVEN WITH THE ADDITIONAL POWER YOU DISPLAYED THIS EVENING, IF THE BRUTE SETS THE LEGIONS IN MOTION, THEY'LL ROLL RIGHT OVER YOU. WERE I IN YOUR POSITION, I WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE COVER OF THE NIGHT TO SLIP AWAY. YOU ARE FACING THE MIGHTIEST ARMY EVER ASSEMBLED. AGAINST SUCH A FORCE THERE IS NO COWARDICE, ONLY SELF PRESERVATION.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR COUNSEL. AND I WILL CONSIDER YOUR WORDS CAREFULLY. FOR NOW, IF YOU WILL, PLEASE REMAIN HERE IN THE OPEN AS I PROMISED. I MUST CONSULT WITH MY TROOPS.

ONE MORE THING. IF ANY HARM BEFALLS YOUR ASSISTANT, THE ONE LEFT AT THE MEETING, I WOULD ASK THAT YOU REMEMBER I WAS HERE WITH YOU AND HAD NO PART OF IT.

I WILL REMEMBER. BUT IF THE BRUTE TRIES TO LAY A HAND ON AAHZ, I'LL WAGER HE'LL WISH HE HADN'T.

TANDA.

WHAT IS IT, SKEEVE? ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT AAHZ?

AAHZ CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF. I NEED YOUR OPINION ON SOMETHING ELSE.

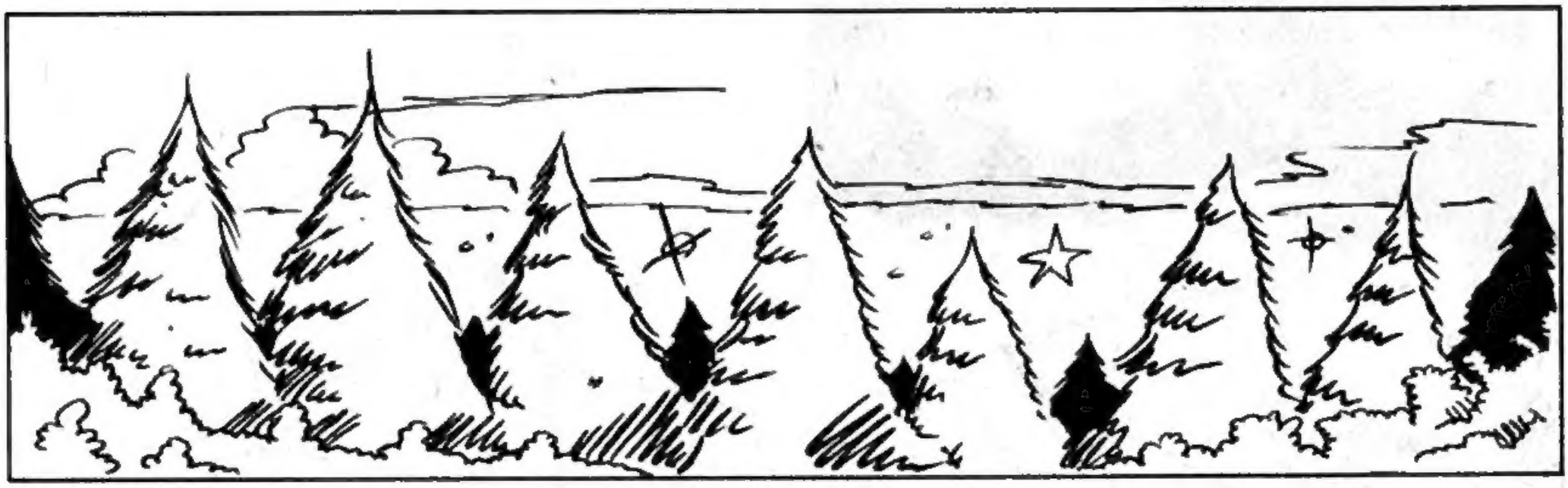
AS YOU KNOW, I AM UNABLE TO SEE THE DISGUISE SPELLS I CAST. THOUGH EVERYONE ELSE IS FOOLED, BECAUSE I'M THE ORIGINATOR OF THE SPELL, I STILL CONTINUE TO SEE THINGS IN THEIR TRUE FORM.

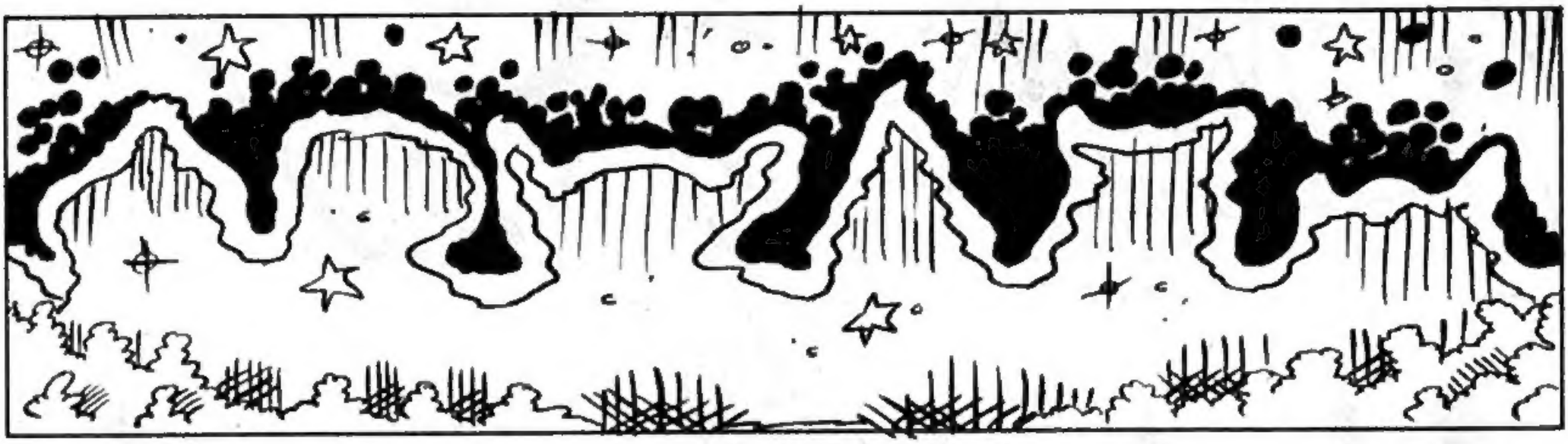
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.

I WAS THINKING THAT IF WE ACTUALLY HAVE TO FIGHT AN ARMY, WE COULD USE ADDITIONAL TROOPS. I'VE GOT AN IDEA, BUT I NEED YOU TO TELL ME IF IT ACTUALLY WORKS.

NOW LET'S SEE-- LET ME TRY OUT MY LITTLE EXPERIMENT ON THAT SMALL GROVE OF TREES OVER THERE.

WELL, HERE GOES!





HEY! THAT'S TERRIFIC!
WHAT DO YOU SEE?
6

A WHOLE PACK OF DEMONS--OOPS!--I MEAN *PERVERTS!* THEY'RE BRISTLING WITH SWORDS AND SPEARS! THAT'S *WILD!*

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT! CAN YOU MAKE THEM MOVE?

I DON'T KNOW. I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHETHER THE SPELL COULD WORK ON SOMETHING BESIDES PEOPLE AND ANIMALS! I JUST--

BOSS! HEY, *BOSS!* COME QUICK!

YOU'D BETTER SEE THIS!

C'MON, TANDA!

SKEEVE--LOOK!!

AH--HEE HEE

HAW! HAW! HAA HAAA

HEE HAW SNORK!

HO HO HO

HAA HAA GASP

HEE HEE HEE HOO HAW HAW

BOGS! WHAT'S THE MATTER?

HEE HEE HO HO HAAAAA HEE HAAAH!

DON'T WORRY! HE'S OKAY! YOU DON'T--

AT LEAST THEY HAVE THE DECENCY TO BURN THE BODY!

WHAT!?!

FIRE?! THEY CAN'T. HE'S NOT DEAD--YOU CAN'T KILL HIM BY HANGING HIM BECAUSE HIS NECK MUSCLES ARE TOO STRONG! AAHZ COULD HANG ALL DAY! BUT FIRE--

AJAX! QUICK! STOP THEM FROM--

AHHZ! NOOOO!

BOSS! IT'S TOO LATE!

FROOF!
HA HA HA HA!

SKEEVE?

SKEEVE?

LEAVE ME ALONE!

BUT THE ARMY IS PREPARING FOR BATTLE!

AAH... SKEEVE... UHH... REMEMBER! I HAD NOTHING TO--

I REMEMBER. AND FOR THAT REASON ONLY I AM LETTING YOU GO. I WOULD ADVISE, HOWEVER, THAT YOU CHOOSE A PATH TO FOLLOW *OTHER* THAN REJOINING THE ARMY. I HAVE *TRIED* TO BE GENTLE WITH THEM, BUT IF THEY *INSIST* ON HAVING WAR...

... AS I AM SKEEVE, WE SHALL *GIVE* IT TO THEM!

AJAX!

HERE, YOUNGSTER!

CAN BLACKIE SEND YOUR ARROWS OUT BEYOND THOSE FORMATIONS?

I RECKON SO.

VERY WELL. THE SAME DRILL AS THE FIRST BATTLE. ONLY *THIS* TIME, DON'T GO FOR THE WAGONS. I WANT A HALF CIRCLE OF FIRE AROUND THEIR *REAR!*

FANG

FANG

FANG

BOOOF!

FOOF!

EASE OFF, YOUNGSTER. YER BURNIN'EM UP BEFORE THEY REACH THE GROUND.

SORRY, AJAX! TANDA--RUN BACK AND GET GLEEP! BROCKHURST! COME HERE!

RIGHT, SKEEVE!

HERE, BOSS!

HAVE YOU SPOTTED THE COMMANDER YET?

NOT YET.., HE'S PROBABLY BURIED BACK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FORMATION SOMEWHERE.

WELL CLIMB A TREE OR SOMETHING AND SEE IF YOU CAN PINPOINT HIM.

RIGHT, BOSS! WHEN I SEE HIM, DO YOU WANT ME TO GO AFTER HIM?

BOOF!

NO! REPORT BACK TO ME. I WANT TO HANDLE HIM *MYSELF!*

FROOOOF!

ONLY YOU!

WE'RE BACK!

GLEEP!

HEY!

GUS, I WANT YOU TO TAKE A QUICK FLIGHT OVER THEIR FORMATION. SEE IF YOU CAN FIND A SPOT TO DROP BERFERT WHERE HE CAN DO SOME PROPER DAMAGE.

RIGHT, BOSS.

WAIT A MINUTE! TANDA! DO YOU STILL HAVE THE INVISIBILITY SHEET WITH YOU?

RIGHT HERE!

GUS, TAKE THE SHEET WITH YOU. KEEP IT IN FRONT OF YOU TO HIDE AS MUCH OF YOU AS POSSIBLE FOR AS LONG AS YOU CAN WHILE YOU'RE CHECKING THEM OUT. THERE'S NO SENSE DRAWING FIRE UNTIL YOU HAVE TO.

IF YOU SAY SO, BOSS, BUT THEY CAN'T DO MUCH TO ME!

USE IT ANYWAY! NOW GET MOVING!

iHSOOOH

ALL SET, YOUNGSTER. ANYTHING ELSE I CAN DO FOR YA?

NOT NOW, AJAX. BUT STAND BY!

TANDA, WATCH THE GRASS IN FRONT OF THAT LEFT WING. I'M GOING TO TRY SOMETHING LIKE I SHOWED YOU. BUT I NEED FOR YOU TO TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE.

SKEEVE! THAT'S NEAT!

AAAAAAAAA!

COME ON, YOU MONGRELS! ATTACK!
POK!
FIF!
CHUK!

SAY, YOUNGSTER, YOU WANT ME TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THOSE JOKERS SHOOTIN' AT OUR GARGOYLE?

THE BOOK
HOLIDAY OUT
GRAVES

WAIT A MINUTE, AJAX. LET ME SEE--

SINCE THE ONES IN *BACK* CAN'T SEE *GUS*, THEY THINK THE ONES IN *FRONT* ARE *FIRING* ON THEM!

AND IF A *GARGOYLE* SCARES 'EM--

MYTH CONCEPTIONS

HISSS!

--A *DRAGON* SHOULD *REALLY* THROW THEM INTO A *PANIC!*

ALL RIGHT-- LET'S UP THE ANTE A BIT!

BRICKS "R" US

POP POP POP POP

BOSS! HEY BOSS! I'VE GOT THE COMMANDER SPOTTED!

WHERE?

THERE!

#6!

AJAX! HOLD YOUR FIRE! HE'S MINE!

ALL MINE!

ZLOK!

GRRRRRR!..

HUH?..

WHA?..

IT'S THE DEMON! CUT HIM DOWN, MEN!

STOP! HALT! RETREAT!

HACK!

CUT!

NO! NO!

SLASH!

SLICE!

DICE!

WOOO!!

CHOP!

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, BOSS. WHAT NEXT?

WHAT?.. DID YOU... I MEAN WITH BERFERT?

PAT! TAP! TAP!

BERFERT'LL BE ALONG WHEN HE'S DONE WITH THEIR SIEGE EQUIPMENT.

WHAT DO WE DO NEXT, BOSS?

I'LL DRAW YOU A DIAGRAM. SOMEBODY GIVE ME A SWORD!

HERE YA GO, KID. USE MINE.

YEAH, THANKS, AAHZ.

THIS LINE IS THEIR MAIN FORMATION...

AAHZ, HUSH!

NOW IF WE MOVE THIS LINE UP... UP?

AAHZ!

POP!

BUT YOU-- THE FIRE--

OH, THAT! ABOUT THE TIME I FIGURED WHAT THEY WERE DOING, I USED THE D-HOPPER TO BLINK OUT TO ANOTHER DIMENSION!

THE ONLY PROBLEM WAS I HADN'T GOTTEN AROUND TO RELABELING THE CONTROLS YET...

WENDY! THERE'S A PERVERT IN MY LAP!

THAT'S A REFRESHING CHANGE, RICHARD.

WINNER OF THE POLISHKER 500 METER MOTORCYCLE SLIDE

!?!

MYTH MANAGEMENT ROBERT ASPRIN- Prop.

TAP! TAP!

HOPE & CROSBY FAN CLUB

...AND I HAD A HECK OF A TIME FINDING MY WAY BACK!

I'VE GOT TO STOP DRAWING THEM SO LIFE-LIKE!

250

O' WAR

WHAT SHOULD WE DO NEXT, AAHZ?

?

I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE ASKING ME--

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE DONE A FINE JOB SO FAR ALL BY YOURSELF.

LOOK, AAHZ, WE'VE GOT A BATTLE COMING UP THAT--

BOSS! SOME-THING'S GOING ON OUT THERE!

SNAP!

BROCKHURST! YOU'RE *RIGHT*!

WHAT IN THE *WORLD* IS *THAT* ALL ABOUT?

FOINK!

BRACE YOURSELF, KID. IF I'M HEARING CORRECTLY, IT'S *BAD NEWS!*

C'MON, AAHZ, HOW COULD THINGS GET WORSE THAN THEY ALREADY ARE?

ARMOR STAR

EASY--THAT IS THE *SUPREME* COMMANDER OF THE EMPIRE'S ARMY. HE'S HERE TO FIND OUT WHAT'S HOLDING UP HIS LEFT FLANK'S ADVANCE! AND WE ALL KNOW WHO'S FLANKING AROUND WITH IT, DON'T WE? KID--

I THINK THIS IS GOING TO BE OUR BIGGEST FIGHT YET!

*NEXT ISSUE: WE FIND TRUE FATAL DISTRACTION WHEN WE FIND OUT...*

# WHO'S THE BOSS?